

# 2014-2015: A Record Breaking Winter

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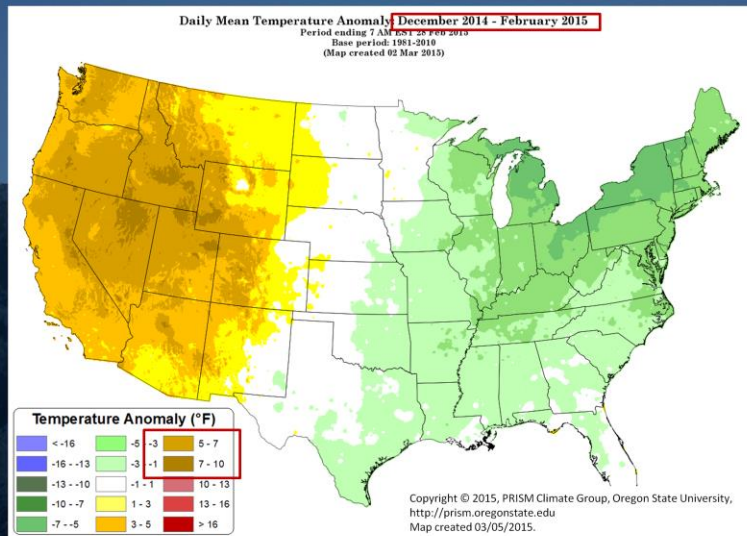
**National Weather Service**  
Building a Weather-Ready Nation

Hello and welcome to our briefing regarding the climate for 2014-2015 winter season. My name is Christine Kruse and I am a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Salt Lake City, UT.



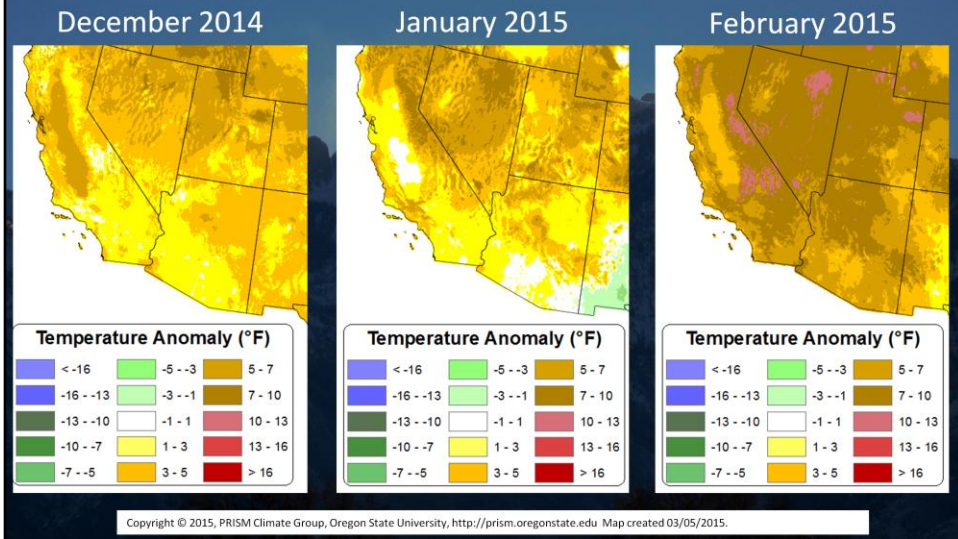
To start, we will be discussing the temperatures experienced across the state for the meteorological winter of 2014-2015. What is meteorological winter? It is the months of December through February and it is how our climate statistics for the seasons are computed, even though it can remain quite cold and snowy long past the end of February.

## Winter 2014-2015: Temperature Departure From Normal



Here is the average temperature departure from normal for the winter season across the country. Remember, when we say winter, we mean the months of December through February. Across Utah, temperatures averaged between 5 and 10 degrees above normal through the winter period. And if you've watched the news at all, you will see confirmation that the eastern half of the country was well below normal.

## Winter 2014-2015: Above Normal Temperatures



Let's break it down by month! The first image displays how many degrees above normal temperatures averaged across the Southwest for December 2014, with much of Utah averaging between 5 and 10 degrees above normal. The warm temperatures continued into January, with temperatures again averaging between 5 and 10 degrees above normal. Finally, for February temperatures ranged between 7 and 13 degrees above normal.

# Winter 2014-2015

## Record Warm Temperatures

A map of Utah with several locations highlighted by red arrows and text boxes indicating record warm temperatures for the winter of 2014-2015. The locations and their corresponding records are:

- 2nd Warmest winter on record (Pointed to Logan)
- Warmest winter on record (Pointed to Salt Lake City)
- 7th Warmest winter on record (Pointed to St. George)
- 4th Warmest winter on record (Pointed to St. George)

Other locations shown on the map include Timpano, Ogden, Orem, Provo, Grand Junction, and Farmington. Major highways like I-15, I-76, and I-80 are also visible.

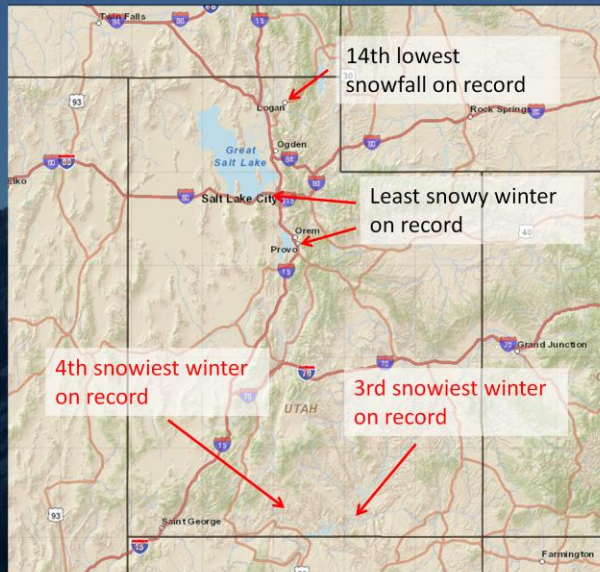
Record warm winter seasons were recorded in several locations. Both Salt Lake City and Provo BYU experienced the warmest winter on record. Logan reported the second warmest winter on record. Cedar City, the seventh warmest winter on record and Saint George, the fourth warmest winter on record.



Next up, how did this winter compare to others, snowfall wise?



*Winter 2014-2015:*  
**Well Below Normal Snowfall, with an Exception!**



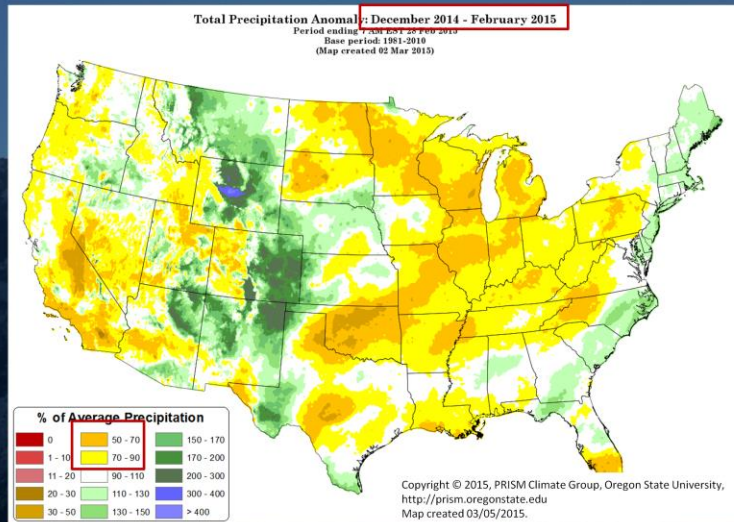
Many locations experienced near to record low amounts of accumulating snow. Both Salt Lake City and Provo BYU received their lowest seasonal total of snow on record. Logan experienced the 14<sup>th</sup> lowest snowfall on record. But there was an exception! The late February snowstorms across southern Utah combined with heavy snow across southeastern Utah during December helped to bring totals high enough to allow Bullfrog to experience the third snowiest winter on record and Kodachrome Basin State Park to experience the fourth snowiest winter on record. It should be noted that Kodachrome continued to receive heavy snow into March, receiving 50 inches of snow in less than two weeks.



Next, how did the winter of 2014-2015 compare precipitation-wise?

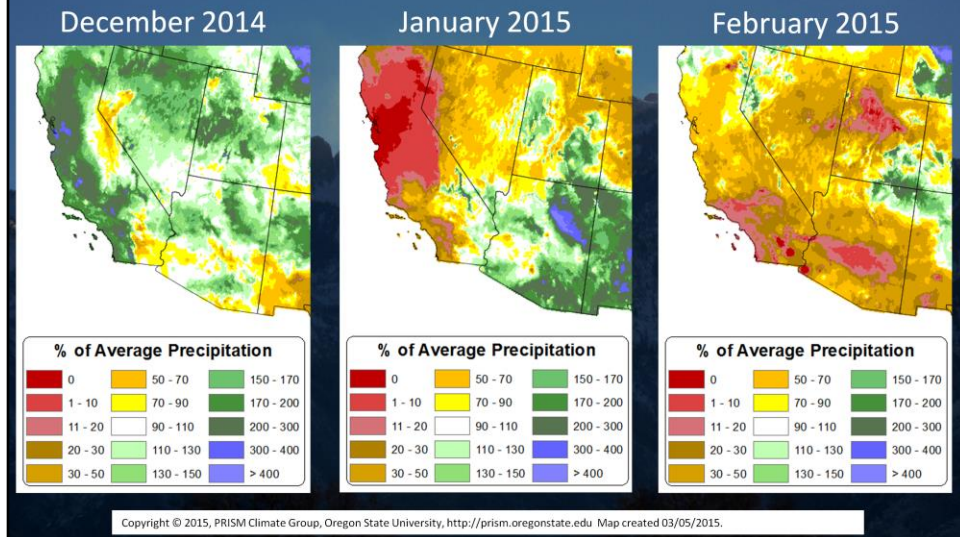


## Winter 2014-2015: Precipitation Departure from Normal



Here is the percent of precipitation compared to normal received for meteorological winter across the country. The yellow colors indicate below normal precipitation. Much of Utah experienced below normal precipitation, with a few areas a bit above normal.

## Winter 2014-2015: Wet December to a Dry February



Let's go month by month with precipitation. The winter transitioned from a relatively wet December to a very dry February for most of Utah. The first map on the left shows the percent of normal precipitation across the Southwest for December 2014. Much of Utah experienced above average precipitation for the month of December. January was drier, with a good portion of the state experiencing below normal precipitation. By February, precipitation was averaging well below normal for much of Utah, with some areas receiving no precipitation during the month.



Now on to a few memorable weather events during the winter of 2014-2015.

## *Winter 2014-2015: Notable Events*

### A Wild End to December

Heavy Snow Brought a White Christmas to most of Utah



South Ogden, UT



I-15 near Centerville



Lake Powell

Another winter storm helped to fuel a downslope wind event across the northern Wasatch Front as well as more accumulating snow to much of Utah, with even Bullfrog receiving 8.5 inches.

December ended in a wild fashion, with heavy snow bringing a white Christmas to much of Utah. Another winter storm on December 28<sup>th</sup> through December 30<sup>th</sup> helped to fuel a downslope wind storm across the northern Wasatch Front as well as more accumulating snow to much of Utah. Even Bullfrog in southeastern Utah received 8.5 inches of snow!

### *Winter 2014-2015: Notable Events*

## Late February Snowfall Across Southern Utah

Heavy snow fell across much of southern Utah during the last week of February, measured in feet rather than inches in a few locations such as Kodachrome Basin and Cedar City. The snowy pattern continued into March.



High pressure remained in place for most of January and February, but two winter storms impacted the southern half of Utah during the last week of February. Snow was measured in feet rather than inches across portions of southern Utah including Kodachrome Basin State Park and Cedar City. This snowy pattern continued into March for southern Utah.



## Summary

- Warm, relatively dry winter for much of the state.
- Warmest winter on record for SLC and several other sites.
- Least snowy winter on record for SLC. Near record low snow for many other locations across the north.
- Warmest February on record for SLC.
- Winter ended with a bang across southern Utah with very heavy snow reported in many locations.

Utah experienced a warm, relatively dry winter. The winter of 2014-2015 was the warmest on record for Salt Lake City and several other sites across northern Utah. This winter was also the least snowy winter for Salt Lake City with near record low snow widespread across much of the state. February was also the warmest February on record for Salt Lake City. To mark the end of winter, several large winter storms brought heavy snow to southern Utah.



# Questions?

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Thanks for watching! If you have any questions, feel free to send us an email. You can also like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. Have a great day!